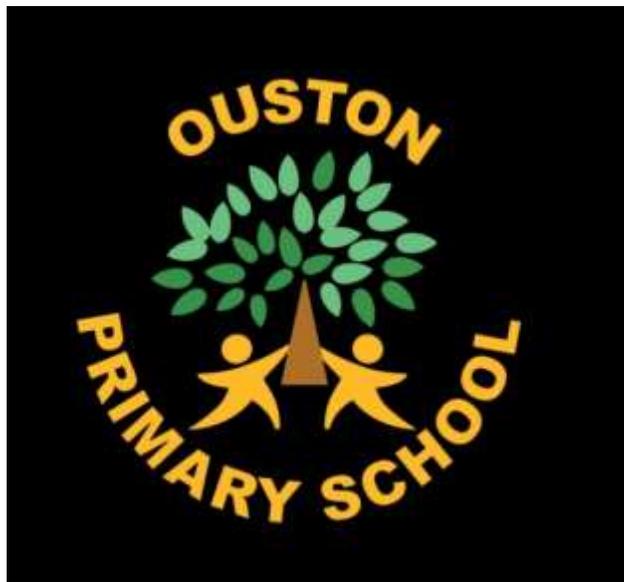


# Ouston Primary School

## Homework Policy



Review Date: Autumn 2021

Reviewed by: Curriculum Committee

Next Review date: Autumn 2022

At Ouston Primary School, we believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in the classroom while supporting children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

**This policy aims to:**

- Raise achievement;
- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.

**The main purpose of homework at our school is:**

- to encourage pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study independently at home effectively.
- to consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school
- to promote and encourage a love of reading and further develop key reading skills
- to embed times table knowledge
- regular opportunities to learn and practise spelling patterns and spelling of year group Common Exception Words (CEW)
- to extend school learning through activities such as additional reading and research.
- to develop and sustain the involvement of parents/carers in the management of their child's learning and to keep them informed about their child's achievement and progress.
- to explore resources for learning that can be found at home eg: internet, library, adult knowledge and newspapers.
- to maintain good channels of communication between home and school.
- to offer pupils the opportunity to extend their learning by including optional, additional challenges or open ended questions.

**Homework at Ouston Primary – Key Principles.**

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school, the amount of homework increases, preparing them for Secondary School homework expectations.

- Teachers incorporate homework into their weekly planning and ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills and classroom learning.
- Teachers provide parents/carers and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework is always marked/acknowledged by teachers through use of a range of strategies including stickers, Class Dojo points, use of in-built leaderboards for online programs and certificates.
- A Homework Star Award is also awarded for each class on a weekly basis to acknowledge children's efforts and achievement with homework tasks.
- Lunchtime homework clubs are held to support pupils complete homework tasks if needed.

### **Homework Guidelines for each Phase:**

The nature and content of homework set, and the amount of time needed to complete homework will vary from year to year and from child to child. We have produced a guide which can be found below, outlining what parents/carers of children in each key stage can expect to be set for homework.

Throughout the school, homework will be set on a Friday and due in by a Wednesday. This is to allow teachers time to mark and organise homework for the following Friday while hopefully providing sufficient timescales for parents to support children with homework tasks.

The return day may vary between Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday for KS2 classes dependent on individual class teachers and how they organise marking and preparation.

Children's Reading Records are to be signed by parents /carers after hearing children read and returned to school with the Reading books (Reception to Year 6)

### **Nursery:**

In Nursery we ask parents/carers to read to their child daily.

### **Reception**

In Reception, once children have settled in, they will be given reading books to take home each week. We ask that parents listen to their children read at least three

times a week (ideally daily) and would also encourage parents/carers to read books to their child regularly, discuss the stories and ask questions about these. Children will then start to bring a phonics booklet and 'word pot' home to reinforce the learning taking place in daily phonics sessions. This will then move to a weekly English and Maths task.

### **Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)**

**English** - 1 short writing/grammar/punctuation task linked to learning in class that week

**Maths** - 1 short Maths task linked to learning in class that week plus at least one session on Times Tables Rock Stars

**Spelling** - A list of spellings to learn at home for a spelling test

**Reading** - 1 Reading book sent home for child to read to parent/carer

Where a longer English task is set, there will be no Maths task that week and vice versa

We give out certificates each half term for pupils who have made particularly good progress with Times Tables Rock Stars

### **Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)**

**English** - 1 writing/grammar/punctuation linked to learning in class that week or a Reading Comprehension task (usually using Readworks online resource)

**Maths** - 1 Maths task linked to learning in class that week plus at least one session on Times Tables Rock Stars Weekly or ideally, 10 minutes daily.

**Spelling** - Spelling rules/patterns are worked on in school and regular spelling tests (using Spelling Frame) or dictation tasks used to check knowledge/retention of these.

**Reading** - When they move into Year 3, some children will still be using Reading Scheme books which will be sent home as in KS1. Once they are free readers, children will be asked to read regularly each week. They should also read to parents/carers each week. This may be the book they have borrowed from our lending library or another book of their choice. Parent/Carer to complete Reading Record and send into school each week.

We give out certificates each half term for pupils in each class who have made particularly good progress with Times Tables Rock Stars

### Lending Library

Children are encouraged to read these at home for enjoyment and parents/carers may wish to hear their child read sections of these books to them and ask them questions about the story.

## **Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)**

**English** - Alternate weeks: Reading comprehension task (Readworks) and Grammar/punctuation/spelling task

**Maths** - 1 Maths revision/reinforcement task plus regular use of Times Tables Rock Stars Weekly with children aiming to reduce recall time to 6 seconds or less (this is monitored by teacher). Half-termly 'Battle of the Bands' to encourage rapid recall.

**Spelling** - These are revised/reinforced in school each week and pupils given an online test in school each Friday.

**Reading** - Pupils asked to read at home at least 10 minutes a day (most will read more than this). This may be the book they have borrowed from our lending library or another book of their choice. Parent/Carer to hear them read at least once a week, complete Reading record and send into school.

We give out certificates each half term for pupils in each class who have made particularly good progress with Times Tables Rock Stars.

### Lending Library

Children are encouraged to read these at home for enjoyment and parents/carers may wish to hear their child read sections of these books to them and ask them questions about the story.

**How Parents/Carers can help children with their homework** Below is a list of ways that you as a parent/carer can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework. You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support;
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set; signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts;
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time; checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc.;
- cooking with them;

- taking your child swimming;
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- watching informative TV programmes together;
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.;
- gardening and growing plants;
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- Attending any school workshops that may be on offer designed to enable Parents/Carers to support their child's learning at home; (Reading and phonics workshops, Key Stage Maths workshops)
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.